2 STRUCTURES

2.1 Circular structures (CS)

CS5/5A or PS9

The west side of this structure was identified in the 1994 excavation and the arc of post-holes detailed here probably represents the east side of this structure. In addition F591 a rather amorphous feature cut by P395 could be the terminal of F226, the circular gully defining one phase of this structure. If this is the terminal it implies an entrance for this phase on the east side, whilst the continuous line of post-holes implies the entrance elsewhere, probably on the west as previously suggested (see CS5 1994). The line of the post-holes may however fit better with PS9, interpreted as the door of a circular structure.

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 942	46	42	25	0.91	EEIA	Cut by F515
Ph 939	48 x 60	34	20	0.63	EEIA	Isolated
Ph 940	50 x 58	34	24	0.63	–	Isolated
Ph 922	42	27 [30]	20	0.66	–	Isolated
Ph 921	40 x 53	33	–	0.72	EEIA	Cut by ph 967
Ph 967	40	25 [30]	–	0.63	–	Cuts ph 921

The post-holes were of similar size, proportions and profile: they had steeply sloping straight sides and flat or slightly dished base. The fills were similar having voids filled with brown silty soil containing a little small chalk and grit, sometimes containing larger chalk and flint blocks 50–100 mm, which was probably collapsed packing. Where the packing survived undisturbed it consisted of tightly packed flint nodules 80–200 mm in most of the post-holes, but in some there was small chalk 10–30 mm in a chalky soil matrix either exclusively or combined with flints. The post-holes were spaced at intervals of 2 m. Ph 922 contained a copper alloy pin.

Ph 942 is slightly different in size and proportion and is the only post-hole with no flint packing, having small chalk only. It does not easily fit the alignment of the other post-holes and is closer to its neighbour than the others. It might represent another phase of the structure associated with F591 or alternatively form part of a curved alignment with PS33, which if it continued would be cut by F510 the enclosure ditch.

CS7

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 1002	65	38	–	0.58	C1BC/AD	Cut by ph 1003
Ph 1003	46	30 [37]	–	0.8	IA	Cuts ph 1002

These two intercutting post-holes occur just inside and to the east of the terminal of the circular gully F603. They are likely to form a pair with another set of post-holes further east. Ph 991 of PL11 clearly cut through another post-hole, but the area had not been properly cleaned on the surface and as a result any further post-holes were not observed or recorded. A likely hypothesis is that this pair of post-holes formed one side of a door of a circular structure enclosed by F603.

F603 G248027-L224950 EIA Circular gully CS7
Length exposed: *c*.8 m Width: top – 0.4–0.5 m, base – 0.06–0.12 m
Depth: 0.22–0.3 m Diameter: *c*.9.0 m Length excav. 8 m

The gully was partly sealed by layer 322. Its relationship to P401 could not be determined. The gully is very even and regular with straight sloping sides and a narrow flat base. It ends at the south in a simple rounded terminal; the other terminal does not occur in the excavated area. The gully forms the western side of a circular enclosure, probably surrounding a house. If the gully continued as a complete circle one might have expected to find some evidence of it though the foundation trench of Building 3 could have completely eradicated it. The gully was probably for drainage, rather than having a structural function.

Fill: The fill was consistent along the whole length of the ditch. In the lower half was a mix of small chalk 10–30 mm and brown silty soil with scattered flint nodules and pottery (2). The upper fill was dominated by burnt flints mostly 40–50 mm and flint nodules 50–80 mm in a matrix of brown silty soil with a moderate density of small chalk and grit (1); it contained occasional sherds of pottery. The terminal of the ditch was defined by a group of large tightly packed flints *c*.200 mm in size.

2.2 **Building 4: The timber hall**

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 976 NE	40 x 42	40	15	0.98	C2AD	Isolated
Ph 933 N	36 x 38	36 [42]	16	0.97	–	Isolated
Ph 987 NW	35	–	–	–	–	Below F217
Ph 982 W	40 x 44	24	–	0.57	C2AD	Isolated
Ph 981 W	42 x 44	22 [30]	12	0.7	–	Isolated
Ph 984 W	30 x 36	20 [24]	20 x 25	0.6	–	Isolated
Ph 985 SW	38	40	20	1.05	C2AD	Isolated
Ph 980 S	36	20	–	0.56	–	Isolated
Ph 997 S	36	–	–	–	–	Below F310
Ph 986 SE	40 x 44	39	20	0.93	Roman	Isolated
Ph 958 E	40 x 42	34	20–25	0.83	C1AD	Isolated

Size: 7.5 m (E–W) x 8.5 m (N–S) Area: 63.75 sq m

An additional post-hole must have been present along the north side between phs 933 and 987 at approximately L158538 below F217 the wall of the aisled hall (Building 1), which also obscured ph 987. Similarly two further post-holes no doubt occurred on the east side outside the excavation to match those on the west side. The spacing of the post-holes appears to be slightly irregular varying between 1.6 and 3.0 m apart.

The post-holes had diameters of about 400 mm with post voids measuring about 200 mm diameter, apparently circular where observed in plan. The corner post-holes were all deeper at about 400 mm than the intervening post-holes, which were more frequently 200–250 mm deep. The fills were all very alike being distinguished by flint packing, frequently *in situ*, sometimes disturbed and voids filled by brown silty soil with a little small chalk and occasional occupation debris.

The dating of the post-holes suggests the building belongs in the early Roman phase, first to second centuries AD. The only internal feature that might be considered to be contemporary is a subrectangular working hollow F595. This appears to date to the second to late third centuries AD, though it pre-dates the aisled hall. The hollow may have been worn during the occupation of the timber hall, but was filled in prior to the construction of the aisled hall. Some of the debris in it may have accumulated during the use of the aisled hall.

Associated interior features

F595 L150455 Phase: C2–late C3AD Subrectangular hollow
Length: 3.75 m Width: 2.0 m (*c.*3.0 m at S end) Depth: 0.14–0.3 m

This feature takes the form of a shallow subrectangular hollow with the long axis running NNE–SSW following the alignment of Building 4, the timber hall. At the south end it seems to widen out to form a reverse L-shape with the east wall of the aisled hall constructed on top of this area. It had gently sloping sides and a slightly dished undulating floor with a few slightly deeper circular hollows worn into the base. Wear on the base was slight.

Fill: Covering the base in the southern half of the hollow was a thin deposit of charcoal, carbonized material and occupation debris (2). Filling all the remaining area of the hollow was a layer of dark greyish-brown silty soil (1) containing a low density of small rounded chalk *c.*10 mm, most of which was concentrated into a series of thin lenses, which sloped very slightly from west down to east. Small broken flints 30–80 mm were fairly common and also appeared to concentrate in the stonier horizons.

F593 L115485 Phase: – Working hollow

2.3 **Post structures (PS)**

PS29 Length: 2.5 m Aligned: NE–SW Type: L(G)

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 929	46 x 56	17	*c.*20	0.33	–	Isolated
Ph 925	40 x 50	13	*c.*25	0.29	–	Isolated

Both these post-holes are very similar in size and profile and both could be recut. They have flint packing.

PS30 Length: 2.8 m Aligned: NE–SW Type: L(E)

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 918	25 x 30	11	–	0.4	–	Isolated
Ph 924	30 x 35	10	–	0.31	–	Isolated

These are both small undistinguished post-holes with a fill of chalky brown soil.

PS29 and PS30 lay parallel to each other about 1.6–1.7 m apart. Before excavation they had the appearance of a rectangular four-post structure. The difference in post-hole sizes however indicates they are best treated as two different structures, though they may have had some above-ground relationship in their superstructure.

PS31 Length: 2 m Aligned: NE–SW Type: L(E)

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 948	32 x 38	11 [17]	–	0.49	Roman	Isolated
Ph 950	35 x 38	16	15	0.44	–	Isolated
(Ph 946	38	12	–	0.32	–	Isolated)

Ph 950 had a distinct soil-filled void surrounded by flint and limestone packing (the profile in the section drawing is incomplete). Ph 948 may have been incompletely excavated when the section was drawn, judging by the depth when planned. Ph 946 is aligned with the other two 2 m south-west of ph 950: the three post-holes could be interpreted as a fence line.

PS32 Length: 2.4 m Aligned: E–W Type: L(F)

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 945	40	31 [35]	–	0.78	–	Isolated
Ph 962	35	30 [34]	20	0.86	–	Isolated

Ph 945 has packing of broken flints 70-90 mm collapsed into the void. Ph 962 had chalk fragments 10-50 mm as packing.

PS33 Length: 2.2 m Alignment: NW–SE Type: L(H)

Ph. No.	Diam. top	Depth	Void di.	PPF	cp	Rels.
Ph 919	48 x 52	46 [50]	*c.*27	0.92	E–MIA	Isolated
Ph 920	46	40	–	0.87	–	Isolated

Both post-holes were very similar with steep/vertical straight sides, flat base and a fill of brown soil with small chalk and flint. Small chalk packing partly eroded into the base occurred in ph 919.

PS34 Length: 2.5 m Aligned: NNE–SSW Type: L(G)

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 941	52 x 65	17 [20]	?15	0.29	Roman	?Cuts P391
Ph 944a	50	28	25	0.56	C1–2AD	Cuts ph 944b
Ph 944b	48	20	–	0.42	–	Cut by ph 944a

Ph 944 had a soil filled void with flint packing to the south infilling the earlier post-hole. Ph 941 had a soily fill with a higher chalk content to the north, which may have been packing.

PS35 Length: 2.2 m Aligned: NE–SW Type: L(F)

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 957	33 x 42	28	–	0.74	EEIA	Isolated
Ph 975	32	30	18	0.94	EEIA	Isolated

Both post-holes were similar in size and shape with steep near vertical sides and had fills of dark brown soil with a very low density of small chalk. Ph 975 had distinct packing of large broken flints; ph 957 had a few small flints at one side, which may have been packing, in which case they would indicate a void of about 200 mm. Neither post-hole could be related to the stratigraphy within Building 2: one occurred in the base of a 1923 trench and the other had any stratigraphy removed by the machine during removal of the water tank base. If the ceramic phasing is accepted, they must clearly pre-date the villa and are unusual in being the only EEIA structure identified outside the Iron Age enclosure.

PS36(/PL10) Length: 3.4 m Aligned: NE–SW Type: L(G)

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 915a	52	31	–	0.6	EEIA	κ Interrelationship
Ph 915b	35	22	–	0.63	EEIA	μ not clear
Ph 916	45 x 48	21 [28]	20–25	0.45[0.6]	–	Isolated

These two post-holes are classified as a two-post structure, though it would be possible to see them as aligned with ph 970 of PL1 and so forming a subsidiary fence at right angles to PL1. In spite of the EEIA phase assigned to ph 915, both post-holes lie outside the Iron Age enclosure. One interpretation of this might be that they formed part of a palisade alignment that here happened to be outside the ditch. However the post-holes are rather different in character from those in PL8 and PL9 and further post-holes should be visible to the north.

Both post-holes had distinct chalk and flint packing, some of which had collapsed into the void in ph 916 and was generally more disturbed in ph 915. Ph 915 had a horn core placed in the centre in the top of the fill. This could be some form of deliberate deposit comparable with those found in some post-holes in the 1994 area.

2.4 **Fences (Post Lines: PL)**

PL1 Exposed length: 3 m/4 m Aligned: WNW–ESE

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 970	44 x 58	26	19 x 25	0.51	–	Cuts QH
Ph 969	46	14 [20]	–	0.3	C1AD	Cuts F544
?Ph 968	44	58	–	1.32	–	Cut by F512

Ph 968 is not certainly a post-hole, as opposed to being part of the quarry complex F512. It is out of character with the others being much deeper, but if it was perhaps the end or corner of the fence this might account for its greater depth. The post-holes follow the alignment of PL1, but it is not possible to trace any further post-holes to the east. They were presumably removed by the later quarries F512 and F580 and the alignment does not continue beyond

these.

Both post-holes had fills of dark brown silty soil with a little small chalk in the void, surrounded by packing of large flint nodules up to 400 mm, though this was disturbed in ph 969 and the precise void size could not be measured. Ph 970 could form a junction with PS36.

PL11 Exposed length: 11 m Aligned: WNW–ESE

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 988	62	16	–	0.26	C1AD	Isolated
Ph 989*	40	25 [30]	18	0.63	C3–C4AD	Isolated
Ph 990	48	15	–	0.31	Roman	?Isolated
F618	60	18	–	0.3	–	?Cut ph 1002 and F603
Ph 991*	62	28	?15	0.45	Roman	Cut ph to NE
Ph 1001	28	7	–	0.25	C1BC/AD	Isolated
Ph 1004	42	12 [15]	–	0.29	–	κ Interrelationship
Ph 992*	52 x 72	16	–	0.26	Roman	μ not observed
Ph 993a	60	36	–	0.6	Roman	κ a cuts b
Ph 993b	60	46	18	0.77	Roman	μ
Ph 994*	33 x 40	36	–	0.97	Roman	Isolated
Ph 995*	45 x 56	32	20	0.64	–	Isolated

Several of the post-holes are recut and there are a number of conglomerations of post-holes suggesting the fence is of several phases. However it is impossible to disentangle any clear cut individual alignments, though it is clear the post-holes can be roughly divided into those with a deeper narrower profile and those wider and shallower in character. The spacing of the posts varied between about 1.5 m and 3 m. It is possible the original fence line was constructed in the deeper post-holes* at intervals of about 2 m. The unnumbered hollow west of F618 may also have been one of these original post-holes. The variety and irregularity of the subsequent post-holes may be accounted for if the fence was never actually replaced as a whole, but only *ad hoc* repairs made when and where necessary.

The wall is aligned with Building 3 lying only 1 m south of the annexe.

PL12 Length exposed: 5 m Aligned: WNW–ESE

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*Void di.*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 932a	30	30	15	1.00	Roman	Isolated
Ph 932b	34 x 46	18	–	0.45	Roman	Isolated
Ph 931	50	23	20	0.46	LIA	Isolated
Ph 952	50	20	20	0.4	–	Isolated
Ph 951	47	25	25	0.53	Roman	Cuts ph 947
?Ph 947	36	30	25	0.83	EEIA/EIA	Cut by ph 951

Nearly all the post-holes had large flint blocks used as packing. Ph 947, which is of a considerably earlier date, need not be a part of this fence line. The dating of ph 931 might

suggest the fence began life in the LIA continuing in use in the Roman period. Ph 932 appeared in plan to be a recut post-hole, but this is not reflected in the section and the shallower cut may represent purely the area of packing with the deeper cut for the post alone. The gap between the two westernmost post-holes was only 1.2 m, but beyond this the gap was 4 m, so that the next post-hole to the east should lie just outside the excavation.

PL13 Length exposed: 7.4 m Aligned: NNW–SSE

Ph No.	*Diam. top*	*Depth*	*PPF*	*cp*	*Rels.*
Ph 927	32 x 44	26	0.68	EEIA	Isolated
Ph 953	40	20	0.5	EEIA–EIA	Isolated
Ph 949a	48	30	0.63	C3AD	Cut b and F557
Ph 949b	52	[28]	0.54	–	Cut by a

This is rather a dubious alignment in view of the diverse dating of the post-holes. The two northerly post-holes could perhaps stand as a rather extended two-post structure, having some similarity in size, shape and fill of brown silt with small chalk, though ph 927 additionally had some remnants of packing in the form of large flints. Ph 949 was quite different containing substantial amounts of limestone tile, as well as flints.

2.5 **Pits**

P391 L187788 EEIA (C2AD) Bowl pit (7.0)
Base Diameter: 1.65 x 1.5 m Top Diameter: 1.8 x 1.64 m Depth: 0.2 m
Uneroded Volume: 0.43 cu m

Fill cycle: 2c (single fill)
$1^{o} – 3^{o}$ (1) Brown silty soil with low density of small chalk and grit, scattered flints, some burnt, up to 90 mm and frequent flecks, smears and fragments of daub up to 50 mm [deliberate fill of occupation debris [D67]].

P392 L157847 EEIA–EIA Beehive pit; eroded (3.1b)
Base Diameter: 1.65 m Top Diameter (estimated): 1.15 m Depth: 1.05 m
Uneroded Volume: 1.63 cu m 50% excavated
The top half had been truncated by F550 (quarry).

Fill cycle: 1a
B (7) A thin lens of puddled chalk, probably the result of trampling, occurred over the pit base [N02].
1^{o} (6) Eroded angular chalk 20–40 mm and flint nodules up to 120 mm was interspersed with lenses of amorphous daub and occasional burnt flints *c*.50 mm, becoming more soily towards the centre [N23/D09].
(5) Deliberate tip of very dark brown soil containing very little chalk grit, rare flints *c*.60 mm, scattered charcoal flecks and daub fragments [D01].
2^{o} (4) Deliberate deposit as a horizontal lens of subangular chalk 20–40 mm [D03] overlain by and intermixed with a tip of small amorphous daub fragments and burnt flints 30–50 mm [D09/D05].

3^{o} Truncated by F550.

P393a L183513 EEIA–EIA Bowl pit; uneroded (7.0)
Base Diameter: 1.15 x 0.9 m Top Diameter: 1.42 m Depth: 0.28 m
Uneroded Volume: 0.33 cu m

Fill cycle: 2c (SF)
1^{o} – 3^{o} (3) A single deliberate fill of light greyish-brown silty soil containing a moderate density of rounded chalk grit and fragments up to 30 mm and a few flints, some burnt, 40–60 mm [D01]. Partly truncated on north by oven P393b ((1) and (2)).

P395 L160754 EEIA Beehive pit; uneroded (3.0)
Base Diameter: 1.98 x 1.88 m Top Diameter: 1.73 m Depth: 0.44 m
Uneroded Volume: 1.16 cu m

Fill cycle: 2c
B A mound of distinct burnt layers was placed on the pit base: (4a) a thin dark grey-black lens of charcoal fragments and ash with small daub [D13], followed by (4b) dark grey ash with charcoal flecks and occasional daub [D11], overlain by (4c) fine grey ash containing many small daub fragments especially at the top [D11/D09] and finally (4d) darker grey ash with scattered small daub and chalk fragments [D11].
1^{o} (3) A light brown soil containing a moderate density of chalk up to 30 mm increasing to the south, where it merged with (5) a brown gritty soil with little chalk and flint [D01].
2^{o} (2) A further tip of fine grey ash with chalk grit and flecks of daub sloped diagonally down across the pit to the northern basal angle [D11].
3^{o} (1) Infilling the top on the north side was a mixed layer of brown soil and chalk 5–50 mm [D14].

P396 L241507 C2AD Subrectangular; uneroded (2.0)
Base Diameter: 1.76 x 1.42 m Top Diameter: 1.8 x 1.64 m Depth: 0.62 m
Uneroded Volume: 1.7 cu m

Fill cycle: 2
B A large rim sherd of pottery had been placed on the floor of the pit slightly off-centre to the north; possibly a special deposit [R50].
1^{o} Filling the lower part of the pit was a brown silty soil (2) containing much chalk grit and a moderate-low density of small subrounded chalk and rare broken flints *c.*40 mm [D01].
2^{o} – 3^{o} In the top of the pit was a mixed layer of dark brown silty soil, frequent chalk 5–50 mm, several flint nodules 80–150 mm and smaller broken flints (1). The stone was unevenly distributed giving the impression of a series of mixed tips of material [D15].

P397 L320990 EIA (LRo) Beehive pit; eroded (3.1c)
Base Diameter: *c.*1.55 m Top Diameter: *c.*1.55 m Depth: 1.15 m Uneroded Volume: 2.17 cu m 40% excavated
Adze type tool marks 20 mm wide in basal angle up to 0.28 m above base.

Fill cycle: 1a
B On the base was a primary brown silt with a little subangular chalk up to 30 mm [N21].
1^{o} The initial infill was falls of angular chalk shatter [N23] up to 60 mm (8) and (6) tightly packed against the pit sides, interleaving with a tip of compact, dark brown silty clay soil (7) with chalk up to 70 mm and a few flints [D01].
2^{o} Filling the hollow was a compact yellowish-brown clayey soil (5) containing a high density of small subangular chalk [D15]. On the surface on the west side of this layer was a thin lens of charcoal [D13] ending at an inverted horse skull, with the mouth in the centre of the pit and the back of the head pointing south. Only the mouth was exposed in the section, but it was likely to be a special deposit [R38].
3^{o} Across the whole pit was tipped a very silty brown soil (3) with a high density of small chalk and grit with larger blocks and burnt flints rolled to the centre [D01]. Over this was a mixed layer (2) of brown silty soil containing a moderate density of small subangular chalk plus concentrations of flint, burnt flints and charcoal [D15].
T Infilling a small central hollow in the top of the pit was a lens of subangular chalk 10–40 mm, flints and burnt flints 30–60 mm (1) in brown silty soil with occasional charcoal flecks [D67].

P398 L307954 EEIA/EIA Beehive pit; eroded (3.1c)
Base Diameter: 1.95 m Top Diameter: 1.9 x 1.8 m Depth: 0.95 m
Uneroded Volume: 2.7 cu m 60% excavated

Fill cycle: 1d
1^{o} – 2^{o} Natural falls of angular chalk shatter 40–80 mm and occasional flint nodules 160 mm (3) closely packed without any matrix interdigitated with a mixed layer of tips of brown clayey soil with subangular small chalk, puddled chalk, soil lenses and possible turves (2) [D18].
3^{o} The upper fill was a mixed dump of silty soil and much subangular chalk 20–60 mm (1) plus larger chalk blocks and flints up to 120 mm, frequently coalescing into stonier horizons [D15].
T On the surface of layer 1 were a number of large sherds of pottery lying flat and animal bone which may have formed a special deposit [Q51]. Infilling the hollow in the pit top was a tip of charcoal fragments and burnt flints 30–80 mm in an ashy matrix [D05].

P399 L200960 C1BC/AD Barrel pit; uneroded (8.0)
Base Diameter: 1.1 x 0.9 m Central Diameter: 1.22 x 1.14 m
Top Diameter: 1.31 x 1.15 m Depth: 0.65 m Uneroded Volume: 0.64 cu m

Fill cycle: 2c
1^{o} – 3^{o} (2) The pit was filled with a single dump of brownish-grey silty soil, very ashy, with a high density of burnt flints 40–60 mm and unburnt broken flint nodules up to 150 mm and a moderate density of small chalk and grit. The stone is unevenly distributed indicative of the individual tips making up the layer [D67].
T Across the mouth of the pit was a thin layer of brown silty soil (1) with few stones apart from a discontinuous horizontal lens of small rounded chalk 10–20 mm and scattered flints, some burnt 30–80 mm [D18].

P400 G339020 Unphased Circular pit (1.1)
Base Diameter: – Top Diameter: *c.*1.65 m Depth: >0.36 m
The pit lay below Building 3, cut by the wall F605 and its chalk footings F606. The only fill exposed in the top of the pit – chalk and flint rubble – appeared to be material dumped as wall foundation.

P401 G240028 Unphased Beehive pit; uneroded (3.0)
Base Diameter: – Top Diameter: *c.*0.8 m Depth: >0.45 m
Uneroded Volume: – Unexcavated

Fill cycle: 2
3° (1) Only the uppermost layer was exposed where the pit intercut with gully F603. The fill was a deliberate dump of dark greyish-brown silty soil containing a large number of burnt flints *c.*60 mm [D05].

F556 L388514 Late C3AD–C4AD Subrectangular; uneroded.
Base Diameter: 0.9 x 0.63 m Top Diameter: 1.1 x 0.72 m Depth: 0.66 m
Uneroded Volume: 0.45 cu m

Fill cycle: 2
1° (3) Covering the base was a horizontal tip of very dark brown silty soil containing a little small rounded chalk and grit, charcoal flecks, scattered larger chalk and flint blocks and frequent artefacts [D07].
2° (2) This was covered by another horizontal layer of brown silty soil with a higher density of rounded chalk grit up to 15 mm plus occasional small flints, a slab of limestone *c.*120 mm and frequent artefacts [D07].
3° (1) The top of the pit was filled by a dump of tightly packed flint nodules 100–250 mm with occasional blocks and slabs of limestone in a matrix of brown soil with little chalk grit [D10].

2.6 **Ditches, gullies and slots**

F510 L15-L28 Iron Age Main Enclosure Ditch Unex.
A length of 27 m was exposed in the main trench and indicated a width for the ditch top of 3.7–4.0 m. A series of layers had accumulated in the top in the LIA–early Roman period and these are described separately.

F511 L15-L38 LIA–C1BC/AD Enclosure 50% ex.; = F277/F291
Length exposed: 35.6 m Width: top – 1.0–1.5 m, base – 0.16–0.35 m
Depth: 0.4–0.8 m Aligned: NE–SW Length excav. 14 m

This long ditch is probably the continuation of the 1994 length, F277/F291, which ran along the south side of the main enclosure ditch. This ditch may be a later delineation of the same boundary. The ditch was partly overlain by layers 285, 286, 287, 290 and 291. It was probably cut by F643, a small quarry in cutting 6, and was certainly cut by F516, F544 (two small ditches), ph 969 (PL1) and F546 and other quarries of complex F512. At its south

extent it is not defined beyond cutting 18 as it disappears in a mass of unexcavated quarry and enclosure ditch.

The ditch maintains the same basic form throughout its length of a flat even base about 0.25 m wide and straight sloping sides. In some areas the sides were steeper at the base, flaring out in the upper part.

Fill: The fill of this ditch remained very uniform along its whole length and it will therefore be described generally rather than cutting by cutting. The 2 m cuttings were numbered from the north with even numbered cuttings being dug from 2 to 12; after a break where the ditch was cut by quarry complex F512, a further 2 m cutting (18) was made at the south extent.

In the lowest 0.1–0.2 m of the ditch was a layer of primary brown silty soil containing a very low density of small chalk mostly *c.*10 mm and grit (3). Only in cutting 12 was this layer not apparent. Overlying this filling the middle third of the ditch (or lower half in cutting 12) was a layer of brown silty soil (2) mixed with a moderate-high density of small chalk mostly 10–30 mm, but up to 60 mm and containing occasional flint nodules 50–120 mm; the layer tended to have more and larger stones at its southern extent. In some cuttings there were distinctly chalkier or stonier horizons, reflecting distinct periods of erosion, rather than a general mix of weathered chalk and eroded soil. The uppermost layer filling the top half or third was a brown silty soil mixed with varying quantities of chalk and broken flints, both 10–50 mm mostly, plus a scatter of occasional larger chalk blocks and flint nodules *c.*80–100 mm (1). Occupation debris including burnt flints *c.*50 mm, pottery, charcoal and bone was generally quite frequent in this upper layer. Densities of occupation debris and stone content are variable along the length of the ditch, suggesting this upper fill was a mixture of natural silting interspersed with tips of rubble or rubbish.

F513 L450670-L300558 C2AD Boundary ditch
Length exposed: 19 m Width: top – 1.5 m, base – 0.2–0.3 m
Depth: 0.53–0.67 m Aligned: NE–SW Length excav. 10 m

At its SW end this ditch must have terminated somewhere in the area of F580, but this quarry was not fully excavated and so the terminal was not exposed, if it had not already been destroyed by the quarry. The ditch was cut by quarries F580, F581, F617 and presumably by F585. Its relationship to F517 was not visible in plan and the junction was not excavated. It is possibly about 1–2 m beyond the east baulk of the excavation that the ditch turned to become F521.

The ditch was very regular in form with a V-shaped profile of straight even sides sloping down at an angle of about 45^{o} to a flat base, generally very even, but occasionally cut to differing levels. Cuttings 2 m in length were numbered from the east end and alternate (even numbered) cuttings were excavated.

Fill: The fill was fairly consistent along most of the exposed length with some slight variations apparent. In the base of the ditch varying from 0.12–0.3 m thick there was generally a layer of angular-subangular chalk rubble mostly 10–40 mm, but with blocks up to 80 mm not uncommon, loosely packed in a matrix of light brown chalky silt (2/2; 4/2; 6/2; 8/3; 10/2). In some sections there was very little silt matrix. The layer had all but disappeared at the south end of cutting 2 (section C) and in the central area [4]–[6] contained several flint

nodules 50–120 mm. This layer was the result of primary erosion of the ditch walls.

Above this there was a mixed layer of brown silty soil mixed with a moderate density of sub-angular/-rounded chalk 10–50 mm. In the central area [6]–[8] it incorporated more large rubble both chalk up to 80 mm and flint nodules 100–150 mm. The proportion of soil to stone was variable so this horizon was sometimes regarded as part of the upper fill and sometimes the lower. It represents a slow rate of weathering of the ditch sides together with accumulation of soil and the occasional flint eroded from the flinty horizon at the surface.

The upper third to two thirds was filled with a light brown chalky silt (1) containing a moderate density of subangular-rounded chalk, mostly 10–30 mm in size, less frequently up to 50 mm. The chalk was uniformly mixed, though in some areas the larger blocks together with occasional large flint nodules 50–200 mm had rolled to the central hollow. Other material noted in the layer included burnt flint, bone, pottery and limestone tile. Over the eastern end an uppermost layer of large flint rubble 50–150 mm, plus a few large slabs of limestone in a matrix of dark brown slightly clayey silt formed a thin layer 0.1–0.15 m thick; rare burnt flint, pot and bone were also present (4/1). It is only properly visible in section D.

F515 L153794-L200866 LIA Boundary ditch = F615
Length exposed: 10 m Width: top – 0.7–0.9 m, base – 0.03–0.12 m
Depth: 0.41–0.45 m Aligned: NE–SW Length excav. 10 m

Probably cuts ph 942. Its north terminus is represented by F615 in Trench 4 and to the south beyond the excavation it could turn to join F227 of the 1994 excavations. It was very even and regular with a V-shaped profile: steep, straight sides, splayed out at the top, sloped in to a very narrow, in places almost non-existent base. The base had been overcut in the southernmost cutting.

Fill: The fill of this ditch was very consistent throughout its length. Filling the lower two thirds was a greyish-brown fine silty soil (2) with a moderate density of angular chalk and occasional flint, both up to about 50 mm. Filling the hollow in the top was a very distinct layer dominated by large quantities of burnt flints *c*.50 mm in size set in a matrix of brownish-grey soil (1) with small chalk fragments 5–40 mm.

F516 L172279-L153737 LIA–C1BC Gully
Length exposed: 7.7 m Width: top – 0.3–0.55 m, base – 0.05–0.28 m
Depth: 0.14–0.35 m Aligned: WNW–ESE Length excav. 6.7 m

This straight linear gully cut across the top of F510, F511 and F591. It terminated beside F544, but did not actually touch it. These two gullies were at right angles to each other and the way they respect each other suggests that they were contemporary. It appeared to cut layer 591.

The gully was quite small and shallow at its west end becoming progressively deeper and wider to the east. It had sloping sides and a flat base, almost V-shaped at the west end. It was more irregular where it cut across the other ditches, but this may reflect the difficulty in tracing its edges cut through other ditch fill rather than any genuine irregularity. It had a curious T-shaped terminal, which widened out to measure 0.86 m across forming a bar 0.4 m

wide across the end of the gully. As this end is cut into chalk, it would appear to be quite genuine.

Fill: The fill was fairly consistent throughout its length. At the eastern deepest end in the lower half was a brown silt (2) mixed with small chalk, 10–20 mm and a number of flints *c*.50 mm defined the interface with the overlying layer which extended the length of the gully. This was a brown silty soil mixed with a moderate density of small angular chalk 10–20 mm and grit and small burnt flints (1). This upper fill also contained many large sherds of pottery, especially where it was cutting through the west extent of layer 591 and at its east end.

F517 L409573-L357594 C4AD Boundary ditch

Length: 6.4 m	Aligned: WNW–ESE	Length excav. 6 m
A: Length: 4.5 m	Width: top – 1.1–1.2 m, base – 0.55 m	Depth: 0.7–0.78 m
B: Length: 1.8 m	Width: top – 0.6 m, base – 0.18–0.3 m	Depth: 0.23–0.32 m

This short length of ditch appears to be terminating in a rounded end as it converges with F513, though their relationship has not been defined. At the east end the ditch changes direction slightly to point east with a simple rounded terminal. The ditch has been dug to two distinct levels and these presumably reflect two phases of use. Whether the shallower or deeper is the earlier has not been determined in the excavation.

The shallower section occurs at the west end and has a U-shaped profile with slightly sloping sides and a flat base which sloped down becoming deeper to the SE as it approached the deeper cut. This had a flat base, steep straight vertical sides, which flared out at the top. Along the central portion the base was even, with only one slightly deeper cut. However at the east end the level of the base changed in two steps with the base of the longer intermediate step rising slightly eastwards. This end section is narrower, closer to the opposite shallow end, whilst the central deep section is distinctly wider bulging out especially on the south side.

Fill: The fill throughout the deepest cut was fairly uniform. In the central area on the base was a thin lens of dark brown silty soil, virtually stone free except for a very little chalk grit and rare small broken flints (3). Filling the lower half of the ditch was a thick layer of greyish-brown silt mixed with a high density of subangular small chalk, mostly 10–25 mm, but frequently up to 50 mm together with a scatter of flints, some burnt, of the same size (2). Scattered fragments and rare lenses of charcoal were also present in the central area. Chalk dominated the stone content in the central and north-west end, but at the south-east end near the terminal several large flint nodules 120–150 mm, some burnt, occurred against the sides and base. The upper fill was a brown silty soil containing a moderate density of sub-angular/-rounded chalk, mostly 5–25 mm and occasional small flints *c*.30 mm (1). Towards the central stretch of the ditch there was some increase in the quantity of stone as well as larger blocks of chalk up to 70 mm and some large flint nodules *c*.120 mm.

In the shallower north-west section of the ditch a sheep skull had been placed almost on the base at a depth of 0.3 m a short distance beyond the deep NW (?recut) terminal. The skull was upright with the back of the head against the ditch wall and the nose inclined slightly downwards pointing SSW in the centre of the ditch. This appears to be a special deposit, comparable to those found more frequently in the Iron Age pits. This section of ditch (cutting

3) had a single fill of brown silty soil mixed with a fairly high density of chalk grit and fragments up to 40 mm, a few small flints and rare potsherds (1). This fill was much stonier than layer 1 in the deeper section (cuttings 1 and 2), implying that the deeper length of ditch was a recut of an earlier phase shallow one.

F521 L417865-L448753 Early Roman Boundary ditch
Length exposed: 13.8 m Width: top – 0.8–1.1 m, base – 0.24 m
Recut – length: 3.0 m Width: top – 0.87 m, base – 0.18–0.25 m
Depth: 0.32–0.6 m; recut 0.39 m Aligned: NNW–SSE Length excav. 10 m

This ditch may join with F513 forming a corner beyond the east side of the excavation. Apart from the modern water pipe cutting across the N end, the only relationship was with a possible tree root hollow F535.

The ditch had straight sloping sides and flat base, which were generally even and regular. In the central area (cuttings 4–5) there was a short section about 3 m long where the ditch was wider (1.26 m wide at the top) and a later recut of the ditch appears to have been cut for a short distance: the base is quite separate at the north end, 0.18 m wide, though intercutting more southwards. There is no obvious explanation for this short length of recut ditch.

Fill: The fill of the main ditch survived along most of its length, but was partially truncated by the recut. For most of its length two layers were apparent divided between the lower and upper halves. Only at the southern end on the base was there an additional thin layer, a brown, primary silt containing a little rounded chalk grit (1/3). Along the remainder of the ditch filling the lower third – half was a layer of small chalk 10–30 mm, varying from rounded to subangular, generally in a matrix of brown silt and containing occasional broken flint nodules 50–80 mm, but at the south end of the ditch the chalk was loosely packed in powdered chalk (2) and (4/3). This layer was probably a result of weathering and erosion of the upper ditch walls and lip. Over this filling the upper half was a yellowish-brown silt containing a low-moderate density of rounded to subangular small chalk and grit up to 25 mm plus occasional larger fragments *c*.50 mm and scattered flint nodules 70–100 mm (4/2) and (1). The chalk frequently coalesced into a thin horizontal lens cutting across the middle of the layer and the large rubble had usually rolled into the hollow in the centre.

The late recut ditch contained a single layer (4/1) of yellowish-brown silt containing a moderate density of chalk grit and subangular fragments up to 30 mm, which tended to concentrate into a number of chalkier horizons and lenses. A scatter of small flint nodules also occurred in the fill.

F544 L150605-L230712 LIA? Small boundary ditch
Length exposed: 16.8 m Width: top – 0.46–0.68 m, base – 0.2–0.34 m
Depth: 0.15–0.49 m Aligned: NE–SW Length excav. 6 m

This ditch terminated at its NE end just beyond F516, which stopped short of it and appeared to respect its line, implying the two are contemporary. F544 ran parallel to F511, which at the south end (cutting 18) it could be seen to cut. F544 was cut by F546 and F604 of quarry complex F512 and by ph 969 of PL1. It was probably sealed by L591.

The ditch was more U-shaped at its northern end with flat base and sloping sides and it was generally at its shallowest here, especially at the southern end of cutting 12, where the western edge had not penetrated the chalk natural. Southwards it clearly became deeper with more distinctly sloping sides and more V-shaped profile. From the plan in cuttings 17–18 there is some indication that it was recut or a third ditch was running parallel at this point. (Could it have been recut when F516 was dug, leaving a gap at the corner of an enclosure with the deeper recut beginning south of cutting 12, where only the shallower phase is in evidence?)

Fill: At its north end in cutting 12 there was a single fill of brown silty soil containing a low-moderate density of small chalk and grit plus a few large flint nodules *c*.130 mm long on the base (1). Further south in cutting 17 there was only one fill of yellowish-brown clayey silt with a moderate density of subangular chalk and angular broken flints, both 10–50 mm, with a slightly greater concentration of compact chalk fragments (eroded) on the base. In the southernmost cutting [18] there were two layers apparent. In the lower half was a brown silty soil (2) containing a moderate-high density of small angular chalk up to 40 mm and grit plus a little flint and burnt flint; some of the stone concentrated into diffuse lenses. The top was filled with a brown silty soil mixed with a high density of chalk up to 50 mm size and frequent flint up to 100 mm and burnt flints *c*.60 mm. The fill probably represents a mixture of natural soil accumulation and deliberate tips.

F578 L445480 – Field ditch – unex.
Width: 1.4 m Exposed length: 3.6 m
A very short section of this ditch was caught in the south-east corner of the trench. In the magnetometer survey it can be seen to be part of the extensive system of paddocks around the villa. None of it was excavated.

F603 G248027-L224950 EIA Circular gully CS7
Length exposed: *c*.8 m Width: top – 0.4–0.5 m, base – 0.06–0.12 m
Depth: 0.22–0.3 m Diameter: *c*.9.0 m Length excav. 8 m

The gully was partly sealed by layer 322. Its relationship to P401 could not be determined. The gully is very even and regular with straight sloping sides and a narrow flat base. It ends at the south in a simple rounded terminal; the other terminal does not occur in the excavated area. The gully forms the western side of a circular enclosure, probably surrounding a house. If the gully continued as a complete circle one might have expected to find some evidence of it though the foundation trench of Building 3 could have completely eradicated it. The gully was probably for drainage, rather than having a structural function.

Fill: The fill was consistent along the whole length of the ditch. In the lower half was a mix of small chalk 10–30 mm and brown silty soil with scattered flint nodules and pottery (2). The upper fill was dominated by burnt flints mostly 40–50 mm and flint nodules 50–80 mm in a matrix of brown silty soil with a moderate density of small chalk and grit (1); it contained occasional sherds of pottery. The terminal of the ditch was defined by a group of large tightly packed flints *c*.200 mm in size.

F609 L202973-G230028 EEIA Linear slot
Length exposed: 6.5 m Width: top – 0.18–0.25 m, base – 0.08 m
Depth: 0.18 m Aligned: NNE–SSW Length excav. 4.2 m

This straight linear slot is even along its top edge, but has suffered a lot of overcutting into adjacent natural clay pockets especially at the south end. It was partly sealed by layer 322. It terminates on the south in a simple straight end, though this is also obscured by overcutting. The base of the slot is very irregular formed of interconnecting circular and oval hollows, which give the distinct impression that the slot originally held a line of stakes.

Fill: This gully had a single fill (1) of very silty brown soil containing small chalk *c*.10 mm and grit, scattered flints *c*.60 mm and occasional potsherds. The top of the layer was dominated by numerous burnt flints *c*.30–40 mm, which were the distinguishing characteristic identifying the gully's presence.

F615 L242940 LIA Ditch terminal = F515, F621
Length exposed: 1.8 m Width: top – 0.84 m, base – 0.08–0.26 m
Depth: 0.46–0.54 m Aligned: NE–SW Length excav. 1.8 m

This short length of ditch is the north terminal of F515 in trench 3. It forms an entrance gap defined with F621 to the north. The terminal is rounded and the base is slightly bulbous, though this is not reflected at the surface. The ditch has a V-shaped profile with straight even sides sloping to a very narrow base.

Fill: The fill is very similar to that in F621. In the base was a layer of very fine brown silt (2) containing a low density of small chalk 10–20 mm and grit and rare flints. A clear lens of eroded chalk 20–40 mm forms a wedge-shaped layer down the east side of the ditch and over the primary silt. The upper two thirds of the ditch was filled with a brown, fine silty soil (1) containing small subangular chalk up to 60 mm and mixed with a moderate density of flints and burnt flints 20–60 mm, which concentrate unevenly in the centre having rolled to the deepest part of the hollow as the ditch filled.

F621 L261997-G270026 – Ditch terminal = F615, F515
Length exposed: 3.7 m Width: top – >1.0 m, base – 0.08–0.18 m
Depth: 0.8 m Aligned: NNE–SSW Length excav. 1.8 m

This section of ditch has a rounded terminal at its south end, representing the north side of an entrance with F615. The base of the terminal is slightly bulbous, though this is not reflected at the top of the ditch. It has a V-shaped profile with straight even sides sloping down to a narrow flat base.

Fill: On the base was a thin (50 mm thick) layer of fine brown silt containing a little small chalk and grit (3). Over this was a thin (*c.*100 mm) lens of eroded shattered chalk 10–20 mm in fine grit and dust (2). The remainder of the ditch was filled with brown silty soil containing subangular chalk, broken flints and frequent burnt flints, all 30–70 mm in size (1). There was a greater concentration of stone in the lower half of the layer, whilst in the upper part it was generally smaller and of lower density.

2.7 **The quarries**

The central quarry complex

F512 L100600 C3–C4AD
This roughly circular complex of intercutting quarries, measuring approximately 12 x 13 m in total, was partly excavated in the form of a quadrant on its south-west side. Only the two quadrant sections were drawn though a few additional temporary sections were observed during excavation. The individual quarries that made up the whole complex could be seen during excavation to be quite distinct, nearly all carefully avoiding each other, leaving little nibs of chalk between defining each one.

The upper level of the quarry complex was excavated as a single layer (302) 0.15–0.25 m thick. This was a dark brown silty soil, granular, soft and uncompacted mixed with a high density of stone including large flint nodules (100–200 mm), smaller broken flints, broken limestone roof tile 50–80 mm, subangular chalk up to 70 mm and occasional burnt flints. It also contained a lot of artefactual material, including pottery, bone, oyster shell, mortar, nails and slag. The layer was very mixed and variable representing a series of dumps, much of it deriving from the collapsed aisled hall. It was cut through by a 1923 excavation trench.

On the south side of the complex adjacent to the aisled hall this dumped material overlapped a layer of collapsed building debris (297). The lower part of the layer consisted almost exclusively of small shattered fragments (30–60 mm) of limestone roofing tile, whilst the upper part was dominated by large flint nodules 150–300 mm, closely spaced in light brown soil with frequent small chalk *c*.25 mm and much grit. The layer clearly resulted from the collapse of roof, followed by the corner of the aisled hall. A fourth century coin was found in the layer.

The group of quarries to the east are probably an earlier separate complex, as the edge of F512 appears to cut through F576.

F532 L192532 Roman Unex.
Length: 1.45 m Width: 0.95 m
Small kidney-shaped feature on south edge of complex, almost isolated.

F533 L162548 Roman
Length: 3.6 m Width: 1.3 m Depth: 0.68–0.77 m
Cut F534, F217; post-dates F584
Roughly oval in plan, made up of a series of circular or rounded intercutting hollows, slightly shallower at the sides, deeper in the middle. The sides are steep and undercutting on the south against the wall F217. Only the west end was excavated, probably about a third of the quarry.

Fill: On the base on the north side was a tip of light greyish-brown silt (3) containing a high density of small subrounded chalk, plus a few mortar and flint fragments. This layer appeared to be continuous with layer 1a of F584 and the pattern suggests the quarrying was moving southwards dumping waste behind the workface to the north. Above this was a tip of angular chalk *c*.30 mm compacted in puddled chalk (2b) sloping to the south. Overlapping this in the basal angle were further thin tips of grey clayey soil with chalk, mortar and shattered limestone (4) which interleaved with small wedges of loose subangular weathered chalk (2a) eroded from the quarry wall on the south. Tipped in from the south was a layer of degraded

weathered yellow mortar in small granules mixed with small chalk and limestone fragments (1), which thins towards the north. This is sealed by layer 297. Layer 1 may represent material weathered directly from the wall of the aisled hall rather than a tip and so in fact being part of the process represented by layer 297.

F534 L155557 Roman
Length: 1.25 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.45 m
Cut by F533 and F549.
This small oval hollow had steep vertical upper sides and a gently curving, even dished base.

Fill: Infilling most of the hollow was loosely packed weathered subrounded chalk and grit up to 30 mm (1). This was sealed by a greyish-brown silty soil (2) with subangular chalk up to 80 mm and frequent grit; it appeared to be continuous with F549 (4).

F546 L165620 LC3–C4AD
Length: 3 m Width: 2.6 m Depth: 1.08 m
Cut F511, F544, F547; base avoids F566. Below L302.
This sub-oval quarry made up of three lobes had straight vertical roughly finished sides, but eroded on the south and a flat even base, slightly more dished in the eastern lobe.

Fill: On the base in the southern lobe was a thin patch of grey ash and fine charcoal (5) about 1 m in diameter. Across the whole of the base was a clean yellowish-brown clayey soil (4) with distinct crumb structure and containing small angular flint and rounded chalk grit, plus rare larger chalk and flint blocks 70–120 mm; a wedge of angular chalk shatter interleaves against the west side. Overlapping this in the southern lobe was a layer of very loose incoherent subangular chalk 10–80 mm and broken flint nodules up to 200 mm, which had apparently shattered from the south wall of the quarry. Covering this and the rest of the quarry was a layer of compact yellowish-brown clayey silt with a high density of small chalk and grit concentrated in chalkier tip lines plus a scatter of broken flints and infrequent occupation debris. Infilling the whole of the upper part of the quarry was a thick (0.4–0.7 m) dumped layer of flint nodules 0.1–0.3 m densely packed in the deepest areas in greyish-brown soil (1) with much sub-angular/-rounded chalk 10–40 mm and scattered irregular-shaped blocks 100–150 mm, broken limestone and sandstone slabs, clay tile, burnt flints and charcoal.

F547 L197612 LC3–C4AD
Length: 2.4 m Width: >1.6 m Depth: 0.66 m, 0.76 m, 0.9 m, 0.97 m
Cut by F566, F546, F548 and 1923 excavation trench. Below L302.
This is an irregular-shaped quarry composed of a series of conjoining oval and circular scoops – three deeper ones to the east and two shallower on the west. The bases were rounded or dished and the sides ranged from even and gently sloping to straight and near vertical.

Fill: Infilling the deepest hollow on the north were horizontal lenses (4) of small sub-angular/-rounded chalk lumps loosely packed in fine chalky matrix and pale grey-brown silt lens with chalk grit across the middle. Several flints including a large nodule occurred in the lowest lens. Over this and extending to west and south was a layer of brownish-grey silty/clayey soil (3) with granular texture and containing small subangular chalk and broken flints. This was sealed at the north end by a tip of yellow clayey daub or mortar (2) with coarse chalk grit and scattered broken flint nodules. Infilling the top of the quarry was a grey silty soil mixed with subangular chalk up to 50 mm and rare charcoal (1). All the layers were

horizontal.

F548 L192591 LC3–C4AD
Diameter: 6.0 m x 5.7 m Depth: 0.6, 1.1 m
Cut L302, F547, F584, F560, F576.
Only a small chord on the west side of this roughly circular quarry was excavated. The darker fill of the quarry could be seen cutting through most of the F512 complex though its northern edge was obscure, possibly disturbed by the 1923 trial trench. The excavated area is cut to two levels with steep straight sides and flat or slightly dished bases, resulting in a stepped effect.

Fill: Across the base of the lowest cut was a light brown silty soil (4) with much rounded chalk grit and small lumps *c*.20 mm, more compact where grit predominated, looser where gravel occurred. Sealing this infilling the deepest cut and extending over the base of the shallower cut was a thick layer of greyish-brown silty clay soil (3) with a scatter of chalk grit and small stones (chalk and flint) and rare lime/sandstone fragments; the base of the layer was defined by a distinct greeny clay lens with a distinct turfy appearance. Above this was a diffuse layer of chalk grit (2) in brown silty soil with rare scattered angular flints, clay tile and sand/limestone chippings. Across the top of the whole quarry was a dark greyish-brown silty soil (1) containing a moderate density of small subangular chalk and flint 10–20 mm together with scattered larger chalk, flints and nodules. All the layers are distinctly horizontal.

F549 L164594 LC3–C4AD
North: Length: 2.9 m Width: 2.1 m Depth: 0.6–0.97 m
South: Length: 3.0 m Width: 2.0 m Depth: 0.7 m, 0.9 m, 1.0 m
Cut F534, F560. ?Cut by F566. Cut by 1923 trial trench (=1)
This elongated irregular quarry seemed to divide into two parts, though it could be seen in plan that the fill extended continuously across both and also F566. The northern half was an irregular oval hollow formed of a deep scoop on the north side ringed by about eight shallower circular ones ringing its south margin. The southern sector was made up of three major circular hollows, getting progressively deeper from south to north and with subsidiary scoops around the sides. Overall the sides were even and near vertical except at the east end where it sloped more gently. The bases of the scoops were dished or flat and even, though the overall effect was of irregularity.

Fill: Placed on the base of the northern sector in a small deeper hollow was a fairly complete articulated animal (?sheep), probably arranged in a tightly contracted position and possibly a large sandstone roof tile had been placed over it. The animal was surrounded by a lens of yellowish-brown clayey soil containing small rounded chalk and grit (5) that appears to derive from the natural clay pockets found in the natural chalk surface; a few small burnt flints were also present. Covering most of the northern area and the deepest scoop of the southern sector was a layer of interleaving lenses of greyish-brown silty soil with chalk grit and small sub-angular/-rounded chalk up to 60 mm with occasional flints (4). On the north side only in the basal angle and partly over the floor was a thin layer of loose eroded chalk 5–50 mm in fine chalk powder. The rest of the quarry was filled by a mixed layer (2) of large broken flints 0.1–0.3 m loosely packed in brown silty soil mixed with a moderate density of sub-angular/-rounded chalk up to 60 mm and scattered stone tile, large isolated animal long bones and pottery. It was up to 0.35 m thick. Layer 1 was the fill of the 1923 trench.

F560 L170578 Roman
Diameter: 1.8 x 1.5 m Depth: 0.73 m
Cut by F548, F549
Circular, even, bowl-shaped hollow with sloping sides, gentler on the north and steeper to south, forming a continuous curve with the rounded base. This small quarry was fully excavated.

Fill: On the base was a very thin lens of brown primary silt (3), which was covered by a thick layer of eroded rounded chalk fragments *c.*15 mm, a few pieces up to 80 mm and grit set in a matrix of light brown chalky silt and containing many broken flint nodules 100–200 mm (2). This was sealed by a thinner layer of loose packed chalk 40–80 mm with broken flint nodules *c.*100 mm in a matrix of light brown gritty silt (1). Most of the upper fill had been cut away by the quarries to either side leaving a small ridge across the middle of the quarry.

F566 L183610
Length: 2.0 m Width: 1.7 m Depth: 0.81 m, 0.86 m, 0.9 m
?Cut by F546, F547. Continuation of F549.
This small pear-shaped hollow, though discrete from F549, appeared prior to excavation in plan to have its fill continuous with it. It had steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded, even dished base with a few small deeper circular scoops.

Fill: Around the sides was eroded weathered chalk (2) equivalent to F549 (3) and infilling the majority of the hollow was the mixed fill of flints and soil equivalent to F549 (2) or F546 (1).

F575 L225535 C2AD+
Length: 3.8 m Width: 2.5 m Depth: –
This unexcavated quarry was roughly oval in plan and projecting slightly to the SE of the main area of F512 complex. It appeared in plan to cut through the quarry fill to the north, which was presumably the continuation of layer 302.

Fill: The uppermost layer only could be observed on the surface and consisted of a greyish-brown soil containing a moderate density of small and medium chalk, broken flints and nodules 50–150 mm in size. A number of artefacts including pottery and nails were collected from the surface.

F584 L170560 C2AD+
Length: *c.*3.0 m Width: 2.6 m Depth: 0.52 m, 0.67 m, 0.74 m, 0.89 m
Below L297 and L302. Cut by F533, F548. ?Avoids F560
Approximately half of this circular quarry was excavated. It was made up of a series of oval or circular scoops, which became progressively deeper towards the centre and gave a scalloped effect to the edge. The sides were steeply cut, vertical in places with rounded dished bases.

Fill: Material appears to have been tipped in from the north so that the layers slope in from the north side down to the centre or south side. Initially a mixed layer (4) of brownish-grey silty soil containing small subangular chalk, grit, yellow mortar, broken flints *c.*50 mm and nodules *c.*150 mm was tipped down the north side. This was overlapped by a thin tip of small subrounded chalk 10–30 mm in fine chalk dust and grey silt, loose and gravelly in texture (3). Over this at the south end was another small tip of dark brownish-grey silty soil (2) containing chalk grit but very few stones. Overlapping this and forming a continuous layer

with F533 (3) was a dump of grey silty soil (1a) with much chalk and mortar grit with increasing chalk fragments to the north. The upper part of the quarry was filled with a mixed layer of loose crumbly greyish-brown silty soil containing much subrounded chalk up to 60 mm, grit, large flint nodules, smaller broken flints, limestone chippings and large animal bones. It grades into L302 and was similar to the upper fills of F546, F549, etc.

F604 L145590 Roman
Length: 2.5 m Width: 1.2 m Depth: 0.56 m, 0.62 m, 0.7 m
Relationship to adjacent features is uncertain. However it appears to have been fitted between F549 and the ditches F544/F511, suggesting it post-dates all these. It takes the form of three circular conjoining hollows, the largest (1.2 m diameter) and deepest in the middle with smaller ones, 0.68 and 0.8 m diameter to south and north respectively. The sides were steeply sloping or near vertical and the bases flat and even.

Fill: This was not recorded during excavation apart from a passing cursory glance. To summarize there was chalkier (?eroded) fill to base and sides, a fairly complete cattle skull on the base of the ? middle hollow and the remaining fill was similar to F549 (2).

The eastern complex

F576 L247560
Length: ?>2.2 m Width: 3 m Depth: 0.57–0.67 m
Cut by F548. ?= F580
This quarry is roughly rectangular and may have been continuous with F580. It had steep vertical sides, curving in at the basal angle to flat fairly even base made up of about three separate hollows, the most distinct on the SW side.

Fill: Against the NE side in the basal angle was a layer of loosely packed angular and subangular chalk (4) up to 70 mm, the larger pieces towards the centre and finer against the side. There is also a less distinct wedge of weathered chalk on the SW side. Over the base and infilling the lower half was a thick mixed layer of yellowish-brown silty soil (3) [?= F580 (6)] with much subangular chalk up to 30 mm and grit and a scatter of larger chalk and angular flints up to 80 mm. The density of stones to soil varies representing a series of tips and dumps of material. Over this right across the quarry was a layer of subangular chalk rubble 30–60 mm (2) [?= F580 (1)] increasing to 100 mm where it was more loose and rubbly towards the sides, but well compacted in the centre with puddled chalk. The top was filled with a light brown granular silty soil (1) [?= F580 (3)], quite loose and crumbly in places, mixed with a moderate density of subangular chalk and grit up to 50 mm and a number of broken flints, nodules and burnt flints *c*.50 mm.

F580 L290545 Roman
Length: 4.0 m Width: 3.8 m Depth: 0.56–0.9 m
Cut F513, F581, F617, F644. Cut by F554. ?=F576
Large subrectangular quarry, excavated on its NE and NW side. The relationship to F576 is not known as no records were made during excavation either of the fill or relationships. It is not known whether the layers in F576 that appear to be equivalent were in fact continuous across the excavated area, as from the plan it is possible to regard F580 as ending within the excavated area. The quarry had straight steep or vertical sides and an irregular base made up of individual scoops, though the base in each was even and flat or dished.

Fill: Apart from layer 1, the others only appear in the NW section, where layers on the N and S sides have been truncated by the well F554. On the base on both sides was a mixed layer (6) of brown (greyish to SW, yellowish to NE) silty clay soil with much sub-angular/-rounded chalk, grit –50 mm plus occasional broken flints and small nodules 20–90 mm. Overlying this on the S side only were a series of wedges of eroded loose angular chalk in a matrix of chalk dust or puddled chalk (5) interleaving with brown silty soil containing a moderate density of subrounded chalk up to 25 mm concentrated in diffuse lenses (4). This together with (6) on the north were sealed by a layer of subangular chalk rubble 60–100 mm, loosely packed with many voids especially to base on NE and with smaller chalk or puddled chalk between. It is assumed that the chalk rubble visible in the NW section is equivalent to the chalk rubble spread visible in plan on the east extending to the NE section. It is also very likely to be equivalent to F576 (2). Above this on the north was a yellowish-brown (greyish and more incoherent to the top) granular silty soil (3) containing much chalk grit and subangular chalk and flint up to 50 mm, plus occasional small burnt flints and limestone *c*.50 mm. On the south and visible along the surface of the south side was a layer of flint nodules and angular broken flints 50–80 mm (2) with similar sized chalk blocks tightly packed in compact light yellowish-brown silty soil. There were fewer flints in the lower level of the layer, but more chalk up to 50 mm and grit.

F581 L300547 Roman
Length: >1.4 m Width: 1.25 m Depth: 0.73 m
Cut F513. Cut by F580.
The NE end only of this linear oval quarry was excavated, where it ran alongside the ditch F513. The sides were steeply sloping or vertical and the base flat or dished.

Fill: On the base was a lens of loose and uncompacted angular and subangular chalk (4) 30–60 mm over the base, but smaller above with a matrix of puddled chalk in the centre, but voids to the sides. Above this was a thin, horizontal layer of compact, clean brown silty/clayey soil (3) with a little small rounded chalk up to 10 mm, which had a turfy look to it. Over this was a wedge-shaped layer, thickest against the SE side of small subangular chalk gravel (2) 10–25 mm loosely packed in chalk grit, probably eroded from the quarry wall. The upper part of the quarry was filled by a brown silty soil (1), crumbly and porous, containing subrounded chalk, grit –20 mm, which concentrated in diffuse horizontal lenses becoming larger and more rubbly to the centre.

F585 L312560
Length: 1.0 m + Width: 0.8–1.0 m Depth: 0.37–0.41 m
Relationship to F513 and F581 unknown – possibly a continuation of the same quarrying process. Sub-oval hollow formed of two conjoining circular hollows extending NE from the end of F581 had sloping sides on the east and a flat base. No record of fill.

F617 L290557 Post C2AD
Length: >0.6 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.52 m
Cut F513 (C2AD). Cut by F580 (Ro).
Circular (or oval) hollow with sloping sides and flat/dished base. North half only excavated.

Fill: The quarry had a single deliberate fill (1) of a mixed layer of brown silty soil, greyer towards the base with granular texture and many voids and equal quantities of sub-angular/-rounded chalk 10–50 mm and much grit, plus small angular flints.

Isolated quarries

F550 L157834 EEIA–EIA
Width: 2.6 m Depth: 0.65 m
Half excavated. Truncates P392. Roughly oval feature with steeply angled straight sides, with slight scalloped effect at edge of scoops cut out of side of pit. Finds have been labelled P392 (1) (2) (3) (8) (9).

Fill: Angular shattered chalk (8) up to 0.25 m long formed the initial layer of erosion down the south side only. Following upon this the bulk of the quarry was filled with a series of deliberate dumps. Initially the basal angles were infilled with a thick sloping layer of brown silty soil (3) with a little small chalk with a concentration of broken flint nodules *c*.80–100 mm and burnt flints *c*.50 mm in the centre. On the north this was covered by a thin tip of daub (9). Filling the lower half of the remaining hollow was a layer of brown silty soil (2) with a high density of burnt flints and broken flint nodules together with many large animal bones towards the base of the layer. The bones did not appear to be articulated, but included many mandibles, teeth and long bones. The uppermost layer was similar being a dump of brown silty soil with a high density of burnt shattered flints.

F643 L273792 ?LIA/ERo
Width: *c*.1.0 m Depth: 0.52 m
The quarry has only been part excavated, lying on the west side of F511. The relationship to the ditch is not clear and could be argued either way, as the quarry may have extended from either F510, the Iron Age enclosure ditch or from F511 a later ditch running alongside. The quarry was circular or oval with a flat base, curving basal angle and a vertical side on the west, suggesting it was cut from F511.

Fill: The lower half was filled with a compact yellowish-brown clayey soil (2) containing a high proportion of small subrounded chalk, much of which was concentrated into thin horizontal lenses. Above the quarry was filled with greyish-brown silty soil mixed with small angular chalk and flint rubble.

2.8 **Ovens and hearths**

The ovens

The key criteria for the designation of type was the shape of the oven in plan. A summary list of all ovens from both excavations indicating their type category appears in Section 1.4.

Type 2
These could be subdivided into three subcategories, which though recognized previously were not overtly recognized in the subdivisions made below.

Type 2a: This is a dumb-bell shape in plan formed of a circular oven bowl joining to a narrower straight sided flue, which at the other end widened abruptly into a circular or fan-shaped stokehole. Two examples were identified, though one of these was not fully observed in plan. One occurred in the 1994 area within the aisled hall. This type measured 1.1–1.8 m long, with a bowl *c*.0.6 m in diameter, a flue 0.3 m wide and a stokehole 0.95 m wide. The floor of the oven was deepest in the oven bowl gradually sloping up along the flue and

reaching the surface at the lip of the stokehole. Depths ranged from 0.31 m to 0.12 m.

Type 2b: This was the most common subgroup with four examples. These were key-hole shaped in plan consisting of a circular oven bowl joined to a narrow flue, whose straight sides flared out slightly to merge imperceptibly with the stokehole. The floor of the oven generally became shallower along the flue and stokehole decreasing from a depth of 0.35 m at the oven bowl to 0.1 m deep in the stokehole. In one (F543) the base remained level apart from a very slight hump in the flue. They measured 0.84 m to 1.5 m long, most oven bowls were about 0.5 m in diameter, but one was 0.9 m, flues 0.17–0.4 m wide and stokeholes 0.21–0.48 m wide. Most of this type form part of Group 2, while one is situated in the villa, Building 2. Two occurred in the 1994 excavation south of the aisled hall.

Type 2c: This type took the form of a figure-of-eight shape with a circular oven bowl closely attached to a circular or oval stokehole with no clearly separable flue between. This type measured 1.3–1.4 m long and had oven bowls measuring 0.5–0.65 m in diameter, flues of 0.35 m and stokeholes of 0.5–0.65 m. Once again the base gradually became shallower from 0.35 m in the oven bowl to 0.08 m in the stokehole. The three identified were all found in trench 4, two within Building 3. Two small examples were found in 1994 within the aisled hall.

Type 3

All the ovens in this category formed Group 1, which were cut into the top of the enclosure ditch below Building 5. In the light of this group a reassessment of F272 in the 1994 area of the aisled hall suggests this is of the same type. This group were all very similar in form with a rather asymmetrical P-shaped plan. The oven bowl was either circular or D-shaped, flattened along one side and opened into a flue which got progressively narrower as it rose to the surface. The base sloped up continuously from the oven bowl at a depth of 0.24 m to 0.07 m at the top end of the flue. They ranged in size from 0.85–1.6 m long. The oven bowl measured 0.4–0.7 m wide narrowing to 0.2–0.3 m at the flue.

Burning on the surfaces of the ovens was variable: some exhibited none at all (F619), others a considerable amount (F543). It is clear that this characteristic depended to some extent on the type of material the oven was set into or whether it was lined. Chalk was least likely to be affected, but when it was burnt it turned a distinctive blue-grey colour. However it was clear from the nature of the geology here that although the chalk might seem unaffected to any extent, the area had been heated as pockets of natural clay could be baked red to look like daub (F519, F543), whilst leaving the adjacent chalk white and apparently unburnt. Where cut through soil (Group 1 ovens) a hardened burnt crust to the soil could usually be detected, though it might not be very thick. If lined with daub or clay this was usually baked red (F543). The most intense burning was almost invariably at the junction of the oven bowl and flue base and sides and on the base often towards the front of the bowl. The back of the bowl was usually less intensely baked and burning or firing usually decreased along the sides of the flue towards the stokehole.

The fill of the ovens generally followed a similar pattern. Over the base was a layer of ash and charcoal, which was usually concentrated in the oven bowls and extending into the flue, on occasions up into the stokehole. Unusually in F519 this layer was thickest in the stokehole, the oven having been abandoned in the process of being cleaned out. The Type 3 ovens had much larger fragments of charcoal (up to 60–100 mm size) surviving than the others. Frequently over the layer of cinders there would be a layer of daub or a mixed soil

layer containing many daub fragments: this layer must have derived from the weathering, collapse or demolition of any superstructure. It is clear from the quantity of daub in some ovens that daub walls continued above the chalk surface for a certain distance. This daub is almost always amorphous and unshaped. Only in a small number of cases has anything more diagnostic been identified. From P393 a large moulded block of daub with semi-circular profile probably formed part of the stokehole arch and in F543 a small shaped fragment with a straight edge may have derived from an oven plate or the edge of a flue in the oven wall.

Some ovens had slabs of limestone or sandstone (reused roof tiles) or pieces of clay tile or brick used in the structure. F600 seemed to be lined with burnt stone slabs, though rather than being lining they may actually have formed some sort of oven plate, that subsequently broke and fell in. Similarly the large stone tile lying flat in the fill of F543 may have had some structural function originally, though it may have been placed over the fill to form a firm surface as part of the floor of Room 1 in the villa.

All the Type 3 ovens tended to have a fill of ash and burnt debris throughout, that was sometimes capped with a layer of chalk or chalk and daub. In one, F531, there was the complete upper half of a large storage jar, the mouth plugged with daub, which had probably been used to form some sort of domed cover.

The upper fill of the ovens, if collapsed superstructure did not continue throughout, was more variable, usually mixed soil layers. Several had been deliberately infilled with chalk or had a surface of rammed chalk capping the infilled oven. This was particularly prevalent in the Group 2 ovens and it is possible features were levelled and surfaced prior to or as a consequence of the construction of Building 4.

The hearths

These were subdivided into types based largely on the Danebury classification, though construction did not follow precisely the same lines. All started as Type 3 with two developing subsequently into Type 1 in a second phase and one into Type 2 and then into Type 4, a new classification. One of the Type 3 hearths subsequently had an oven constructed in its hollow (F543).

Type 3
Most of the hearths were circular or slightly oval or more rarely rather irregular (F543) measuring in diameter 0.55–1.4 m. Some took the form of perfectly flat burnt areas (F588, F572) sometimes with the thinnest of skims of ash or charcoal (F520, F612) on the surface. These probably represent a short-lived variety, which resulted in little or no wear. If these had continued in use over a longer time span, they would probably have developed into the alternative variety of a basin-shaped hollow. These ranged from 0.06–0.17 m deep and contained a layer of ash and charcoal at least in the base if not infilling the full depth. Not all the hearths exhibited *in situ* burning on the chalk: it seems to be less frequent in the hollows than the flat hearths.

Types 1, 2 and 4
The deeper of the Type 3 hearths had been resurfaced suggesting a depth much over 0.15 m became impractical for use as a hearth. The resurfacing might involve an initial infilling with some sort of stone foundation (e.g. limestone slabs in F586) or merely the spread of the

selected material across the old hearth and infilling it in the process. This was a spread of blocks of daub or mortar (Type 1 – F542, F586), puddled chalk (Type 2 – F570/3) or limestone flagstones (Type 4 – F570/4). Unlike the Iron Age hearths at Danebury it does not appear to have been usual to place a layer of flint nodules or other stone as a foundation prior to laying the finer surfacing material.

All but two of the hearths were situated in Room 6 of the Villa Building 2. One of the others (F612) was in the aisled hall Building 1, but need not be contemporary and may relate to some hearths further to the west in the 1994 area. The other lay in isolation outside to the north of Building 2.

The ovens and hearths were clearly organized in groups spatially suggesting certain areas were set aside for particular activities. Those inside Room 6 of Building 2 were most probably domestic in nature being used for cooking and baking and there is no reason why several may not have been in use contemporaneously. Slight differences in form may be indicative of various functions and this is sometimes emphasized by differences in fill. The Type 3 ovens in particular seem to be set apart from the ovens and these may in fact have been some sort of metalworking hearths. Further analysis of material from the oven fills and residues from flotation may provide further information concerning use and function.

Descriptions

Ovens

F519 L392757 C4AD Oven: Type 2a – Villa Room 3
Length: 1.82 m Width: 0.62 m, 0.32 m, 0.95 m Depth: 0.31, 0.28, 0.16 m
Aligned NE–SW. Isolated.
This oven is at right angles to the S wall, F525 of Room 3 of the villa (Building 2) and 0.4 m from it. It is possible about 0.1–0.15 m were truncated by the machine in removal of ploughsoil. The oven is a typical dumb-bell shape with a circular oven bowl at the south end joined to a narrow central flue that sloped up and widened to the oval stokehole at the north end. The chalk walls and base of the bowl were burnt grey, as were the floor and lower sides of the narrowest point of the flue, that appeared to have suffered the most intense burning and firing. It was also interesting to note that three natural clay pockets (one called F533) around the bowl had been baked red up to a distance of 0.3 m from the oven wall though the chalk remained unaffected. It has not previously been apparent the distance to which the heat of the oven could permeate. It may also provide some indication of the temperature reached during firing.

Fill: The fill was sectioned across the bowl and stokehole rather than along the long axis. Over the base of the bowl towards the back was a thin deposit of small charcoal fragments and dust (6), whilst in the stokehole and flue area on the floor was a thicker (60 mm) layer of ash and charcoal fragments with occasional pieces of daub and burnt flint (5). Above this was a further layer of light grey ash (4) with scattered fragments of daub and burnt flint. It seems most of the cinders had been scraped out of the bowl and flue into the stokehole, where it was unusually thick. It is likely that this ashy layer merged or interleaved with the lower part of layer 2 in the oven bowl. The layer consisted of reddish-brown daub fragments in a matrix of soil and degraded daub with densely packed flint nodules 80–220 mm size in the upper half

of the layer. Above this and confined to the bowl was a layer of light orange-grey degraded daub (1) mixed with silty soil and containing small chalk and occasional burnt flints. Capping the stokehole was a thin layer of rounded chalk lumps 5–20 mm in a matrix of puddled chalk with traces of yellow daub (3). The fill can be interpreted as the remains of the final firing scraped into the stokehole area, but not actually removed, when the oven was demolished or collapsed resulting in the infilling of the bowl with daub and flints, which suggests the upper part took the form of simple daub walls reinforced with flint nodules. Whether the walls continued to form an enclosed dome is not discernible on the surviving evidence.

F530 L224786 LIA/ERo Oven: Type 3 – Group 1 (northern)
Length: 1.6 m Width: 0.6 m, flue 0.5–0.2 m Depth: 0.15–0.1 m
Aligned: E–W/NE–SW. Cut into fill of F510; below L286; cut F641, F642.
This is an unusual shaped oven being like the end of a golf club in plan. It had a rounded, oval bowl at the east end aligned E–W with sloping sides and rounded base. The flue extended from the west end at an angle of about 135^{o}, aligned NE–SW and sloped gently up narrowing to the end. No stokehole area was present. The upper edge of the oven was delineated by burnt clay or the soil layer it cut burnt *in situ*. As the sides sloped down to the base the burnt surface became less distinct and diffuse, resulting in the feature being severely overcut. The situation was confused as the underlying layer was very ashy with charcoal, daub and burnt flints (2), a typical oven fill. However time did not allow further investigation of this layer to assess whether it was the fill of an underlying oven or a tip of oven debris in the ditch F510.

Fill: On the base of the oven bowl was a thin lens of charcoal and ash, overlain by a soft grey ashy soil (3) with frequent charcoal fragments 5–10 mm, much chalk grit and scattered burnt flint and burnt chalk pieces. (It merged imperceptibly into the fill of F642, which caused further difficulty in the excavation and analysis of these ovens.) In the area of the flue the fill became more compacted consisting of greyish-brown silty soil (1) with a high density of chalk up to 40 mm and grit and occasional small flints *c*.30 mm.

F531 L234786 C2AD Oven: Type 3 – Group 1 (northern)
This is probably two ovens and is described in two parts as A and B.

A: Length: 0.55 m Width: 0.43 Depth: 0.13 m
Below L286; cut ‘B’, fill of F510.
This feature takes the form of sub-circular/oval bowl with gently sloping sides and rounded base. There was some burning *in situ* over the base and on the east and west sides with a little burnt clay lining on the west also.

Fill: Over the base was a thin (30 mm) black layer of solid charcoal (2) consisting of fragments up to 40 mm in a matrix of fine charcoal dust and ash. This was covered by a lens (20–30 mm thick) of fine grey ash mixed with grit of chalk and daub (1). On top of this were the remnants of a layer of rounded chalk pieces 10–20 mm (3) closely packed in a matrix of brown soil. In association with this layer was a whole pot largely excavated with a mattock so its precise relationship and arrangement could not be easily discerned. The sherds left *in situ* appeared to be lying under layer 3 and they appeared to be part of the wall of the pot. The pot mouth had been plugged with daub. It seemed most likely that the pot was upright, but it is difficult to be certain in view of the method of excavation. The pot consisted of the complete top half including rim and shoulder. It was a narrow necked jar probably dating to the late first century AD and commonly utilized for storage or cooking. It may have been deliberately

modified into a half pot or have broken and then been reused. Complete it would have stood 30–40 cm high and around its centre would have had a diameter of about 30 cm. It is possible the pot had been used to form some type of domed top to the oven, but if so the oven had never been fired up after this modification as the pot had absolutely no sign of secondary heating, neither refiring, discolouration or even sooting.

B: Length: 0.85 m Width: 0.38, 0.23 m Depth: 0.17–0.07 m
Aligned: ESE–WNW. Below L286; cut by 'A'; cuts F510 fill.
The oven is an elongated oblong shape slightly wider and more rounded at the deeper bowl end continuous with the straighter sides of the flue. The sides were gently sloping, the base rounded and dished in the bowl, but forming a continuously sloping surface up the length of the flue. There was no stokehole area. The north and east side and part of the south side of the bowl were lined with burnt clay up to 90 mm thick.

Fill: The lower fill appeared to be continuous between A and B, but two separate yet contiguous layers of charcoal would be almost impossible to differentiate. In the base of the bowl and extending part way along the flue was a layer of solid charcoal (2) 50 mm thick consisting of charcoal fragments including one piece of 60 mm size in a matrix of fine charcoal dust and ash. Above this was a thinner layer (10–40 mm) of fine grey ash with flecks of charcoal and a little chalk grit. It was thicker towards the ends than the middle. This was sealed by a layer of amorphous baked red clay (4), containing rounded chalk 10–30 mm, burnt flints 30–50 mm compacted in a soily matrix and puddled chalk. This was very similar to the material plugging the pot found in A. It appeared to be collapsed superstructure. It was 30–70 mm thick and occurred mainly over the east end.

It is not absolutely conclusive that A and B represent two separate ovens. They may be part of a single structure with a dog-legged plan similar to F530.

F543 L306674 LC3–C4AD Hearth: Type 3; Oven: Type 2b – Villa Room 1
Oven: Length: 1.1 m Width: 0.5 m, 0.17 m, 0.21 m Depth: 0.11 m, 0.06 m, 0.1 m
Hearth: Length: 1.9 m Width: 1.1 m Depth: 0.14 m
Aligned: WNW–ESE. Top truncated by machine trench. Cut F523; north edge below L315; ?contemporary with F572 and L338.

The oven was constructed in an irregular oval hollow measuring 1.1 x 1.9 m with burnt natural extending beyond the south-east end in a semicircle for about 0.3 m. This burnt area remained visible throughout the use of the hollow and oven and could have occurred during the primary use of the hollow, the oven, F572 or all three. The hollow had sloping sides and flattish base which had burning extending across it beyond the area of the oven. Over the surface of the hollow a thin lens of fine charcoal and ash was preserved, where subsequently sealed by the oven structure. It would appear in this preliminary stage the hollow had served as a hearth (Type 3), which subsequently provided a suitable area for construction of the oven.

The oven was constructed by lining the hollow with clay and shaping the oven within this. It consisted of a circular oven bowl with a narrow flue leading from its SE side which only widened very marginally at its furthest end representing the stokehole area. The floor was flat and horizontal along its whole length and sides were generally vertical, though slightly more sloping on the north side of the bowl. There was very intense firing of the base and clay walls at the junction of bowl and flue with moderate baking and reddening of the clay up to 150

mm from the flue walls, but decreasing to only 30 mm around the back of the bowl. This continued as a semicircle of burnt/baked clay 0.32 m wide beyond the end of the flue, which probably represents the stokehole area, which may originally have been a shallow hollow as might be expected prior to truncation of these levels. This area is ringed by a further area of burnt natural chalk and clay extending 0.4 m to north and east. This is most likely to relate to the stoking of the oven from its shape rather than the earlier hearth or adjacent feature F572. Unbaked yellow clay filled the rest of the hollow to the north of the flue and to the west and south of the bowl. Along the southern edge was a line of reused terracotta and stone tiles set on edge plus some flint and chalk blocks, many of these stones being burnt, which may represent part of an exterior coating of the superstructure. A burnt limestone slab had been set lying flat into the clay along the north edge of the flue end. It is possible reused stone or clay tile formed courses throughout much of the superstructure.

Samples of daub and clay were taken from representative parts of the oven bowl, flue and stokehole, as well as being retained from layer 1. The material was a coarse tempered clay containing a high density of chalk and flint fragments frequently 20–30 mm in size and one flint 75 mm. It is essentially fabric C brown in colour where it was lightly baked, but red where well fired with surface turned to a pale yellowish-brown. The daub from layer 1 was made in the same fabric and similar to the *in situ* daub samples, though possibly having smaller inclusions generally. Most of the fragments were amorphous except for one from the edge of a plate or wall having two flat parallel surfaces 48 mm apart joined by a slightly convex straight edge. This indicates that either the superstructure walls narrowed and the edge might be regarded as part of the opening over the flue or less probably the fragment might come from some sort of oven plate.

Fill: In the base of the oven bowl was a layer of charcoal fragments and powder in a matrix of brown soil (2), about 50 mm thick. Resting on this in the centre of the bowl and filling most of it was a large limestone slab (?reused tile) 300 x 300 mm in size. Around this in the oven bowl and extending into the flue were fragments and blocks of amorphous decayed red baked clay in a matrix of greyish-yellow clayey silt (1) which dominated at the SE end of the flue. The daub was clearly collapsed superstructure and it is likely the stone slab may have been also. The extent of the daub suggests the superstructure did not extend beyond the narrow section of the flue.

F564 L224485 C2AD Oven – Group 2b (southern)
Length: *c*.1.1–1.2 m Width: 0.56, 0.4, 0.48 m Depth: 0.34, 0.25, 0.16 m
Aligned NE–SW. Isolated.
The oven is a typical keyhole-shaped feature with a circular bowl at the NE end leading into a narrower flue which sloped up to the stokehole partly obscured by the baulk at the SW end. The chalk walls of the bowl were burnt on the north and west sides and the base was burnt at the junction of bowl and flue. It had straight vertical sides and a flat base becoming more rounded in the flue.

Fill: Over the base was a layer of dark grey ash and charcoal *c*.50 mm thick labelled (4) in the bowl and (5) in the flue, but probably continuous. Over the cinders was decomposed yellowish-brown daub (3) with redder more fired pieces towards the base set in a matrix of soil and chalk. Above this and extending the whole length of the oven was a dump of small chalk rubble up to 50 mm plus occasional small flints compacted in fine chalk powder (2). In the final hollow in the top of the bowl of the oven was a dark brown silty soil (1) containing a little chalk grit and a large sherd of pot (possibly more sherds had been removed during

machining of ploughsoil). The oven had the remnant of the last firing over the base with part of the daub superstructure collapsed/demolished over this. The remaining hole had then been deliberately levelled with a dump of chalk. The top hollow may have been used for a cremation burial similar to F574 nearby.

F598 L153547 Roman Oven: ?Type 2?b – Group 2 (southern)
Length: >1.2 m Width: 0.9 m (estimated) Depth: 0.35 m
Most of this oven was obscured by F217 (wall of aisled hall) that had been built over its southern half and part of its east end destroyed by quarry F533.

It was aligned approximately NW–SE with the bowl of the oven to the NW. The surviving part of this was circular with sloping sides. *In situ* burning was not noted on the base or sides (though it was recorded in something of a hurry).

Fill: Over the base of the bowl was a dark grey layer of ash and fine charcoal (3) about 70 mm thick with a lens of red burnt clay and towards the base much chalk grit. Over this was a lens of pinkish-brown daub in small rounded lumps 20–50 mm (2) in a matrix of chalky brown soil, which was probably fallen walls or superstructure. The rest of the oven was filled with loosely packed crumbly grey silty soil (1) mixed with much small chalk up to 50 mm and angular broken flints up to 80 mm.

F600 L160526 Roman Oven: Type 2b – Group 2 (southern)
Length: 0.84 m Width: 0.54 m, 0.28 m, 0.34 m Depth: 0.2 m, 0.1 m
Aligned: NE–SW. Below L325 (LC3–C4AD); isolated.
The oven was a typical keyhole shape consisting of a circular oven bowl at the north end and a narrower straight sided flue widening very lightly to its southern end. The side walls were steep and straight and the base of the bowl flat and even; the floor of the flue formed a continuous slope up to the surface. There was *in situ* burning of the chalk to a blue-grey colour along the north wall of the flue and of the adjacent floor at the junction of flue and oven bowl. The sides of the oven were lined with several burnt limestone slabs 15–20 mm thick and ranging in size from 70 x 200 mm to 130 x 130 mm set in a thin layer of reddish-brown daub 20–30 mm thick against the chalk walls.

Fill: Covering the base of the oven bowl and extending partly up the flue was a thin layer of fine charcoal and ash (3). It was blacker with charcoal predominating in the bowl becoming greyer and more ashy in the flue. Above this filling most of the bowl and much of the flue was a thick (100 mm) deposit of fired red-orange daub (2) tempered with chalk grit and containing rare small flints and some limestone slabs (150 mm). The layer is clearly collapsed superstructure which had limestone lining higher up the structure.

The top of the oven was capped with a layer of compacted chalk fragments 15–25 mm in puddled chalk (1).

F619 L309999 C4AD Oven: Type 2c – Building 3
Length: 1.28 m Width: 0.64, 0.5 m Depth: 0.18 m
Aligned: NNE–SSW. Cut L319, L344, L320.
The oven takes the form of a figure-of-eight shape with the rounded bowl gradually narrowing to a minimum of 0.26 m on the floor (wider at the surface – 0.48 m) before widening again to the south, which is assumed to be the stokehole area. The sides were sloping and the base even and flat. There was no sign of any burning on the oven.

Fill: The fill in the bowl was a brown silty soil containing a moderate density of small subangular chalk and flint fragments up to 20 mm size. It contains no burnt debris.

F640 L304975 Roman Oven: Type 2c – Building 3
Length: 1.42 m Width: 0.5, 0.35, 0.5 m Depth: 0.35, 0.17 m
Aligned: NNE–SSW. Cut by F614.
This oven was figure-of-eight-shaped with steep vertical sides and an even dished base in the oven bowl from which the floor of the flue and stokehole formed a continuous slope to the surface, apart from a slight ledge marking the start of the stokehole. There was a small area of *in situ* burning on the west wall of the bowl.

Fill: Covering the base of the oven bowl and extending (an unspecified distance) into the flue was a layer of fine charcoal dust (2) with the occasional smear of dark brown daub. Above this filling the remainder of the oven was a thick dump of small rounded daub in pink dauby/mortary matrix (1). The interface with layer 2 was demarcated by a discontinuous dribble of large burnt flints 60–120 mm in size.

F641 L222792 Phase ?C1BC/AD Oven: Type 3 – Group 1 (northern)
Length: 1.5 m Width: 0.7 m Depth: 0.24–0.08 m
Below L286. Cut by F530. Cut into top of F510 fill. Aligned NE–SW.
This small oval or rather P-shaped oven had a deep circular bowl up to 0.7 m wide across the centre of the oven with steeply sloping sides. The even bases sloped continuously up the stokehole to the surface at the SW end. The sides were burnt *in situ* over the base and around nearly all sides except the SE side of the bowl.

Fill: Covering the whole of the base was a solid mass *c*.20 mm thick of fine black charcoal dust, plus few larger fragments (4). This was covered by a thick layer of soft brown silty ash (3) with smears of charcoal, scattered fragments of orange daub and a lens of pink degraded daub near the top. It mainly infilled the bowl and did not extend right along the flue. Over this in the bowl end only was a further lens of solid charcoal fragments in a matrix of black charcoal dust (2). Finally infilling the top was a mixed layer of daub, orange-red baked clay fragments, many charcoal fragments, small burnt flints and some chalk in a soft pinkish-brown ashy silt (1).

F642 L227783 Phase ?C1BC/AD Oven: Type 3 – Group 1 (northern)
Length: 0.9 m Width: 0.44, 0.28 m Depth: 0.1 (flue)
Aligned: SE–NW. Below L286; cut by F530, F641; cuts F510 fill.
This oven was initially confused with F530 which appears to have cut through the middle separating both its ends. The form appears to be essentially the same as the other ovens in this group. Most of it had either been destroyed or was left unexcavated. The oven bowl was circular and visible around its southern edge was a lining of burnt clay. The bowl was not excavated, nor the section drawn, but the notebook sketch indicates vertical or undercutting sides and a dished rounded base sloping up to the south. The exact depth of the bowl was not measured (as it was originally intended to draw and fully excavate it, but time and manpower ran out), but from memory it was about 0.2 m (+/– 0.05 m). The flue end was preserved between F530 and F641, the latter cutting away part of its end. It had a rounded profile with sloping sides, more gentle on the south than the north.

Fill: Over the base of the oven bowl was a thin but distinct black lens of charcoal fragments and dust (5). Above this was a thick layer of soft grey ashy soil containing frequent charcoal fragments, flecks of daub, and pieces of burnt flint and chalk (3). A piece of oak charcoal 100 mm long assigned to this layer was probably in fact in layer 5. The top of the bowl was capped by a circular layer of hard packed subrounded chalk 10–30 mm plus a few burnt flints in a matrix of clay and brown silt (4). The flue was full of loosely packed large fragments of charcoal *c*.25 mm in fine charcoal dust. This may originally have been continuous with layer 5. The fill of the flue was not immediately separated from the charcoal layer of F641 and it is likely that any charcoal fragments were collected with this.

F645 L150534 Phase – Oven – Group 2?b (southern)
Length: 1.5 m Width: 0.5 m Depth: >0.28–0.22 m
This feature could represent one or two ovens depending on one's preferred interpretation. As F217 the north wall of the aisled hall bisects it, it is not possible to be certain. At the NW end is a deep circular bowl 0.5 m in diameter with *in situ* burning of the walls around the W and S sides. It was only partially excavated to a depth of 0.28 m and it is possible it has a stokehole under the wall running northwards. The section cut on line with the wall F217 appeared to bear no relevance to the oven and was not drawn. The unexcavated fill was a mix of loose soil and daub fragments.

The shallower section of oven aligned SE–NW and bisected along its long axis by the wall was fully excavated in its southern half, but no record of the fill was noted. It measured 0.85 m long with a circular hollow 0.46 m diameter at the SE end and a slightly shallower flue leading from it. There was no sign of any burning on it and this could be interpreted as the shallower flue and stokehole for the deep bowl to the NW or a separate smaller oven comparable in size to F600, which lies near by.

P393 L183513 EEIA–EIA Oven Group 2?a (Southern)
Pit – Length: 1.5 m Width: 1.4 m Depth: 0.25–0.31 m
Oven – Length: *c*.1.1 m Width: *c*.0.6 m (bowl) Depth: 0.2, 0.13 m
Aligned N–S.
It is not clear whether the whole of this shallow pit was dug as a base for an oven or whether an earlier feature had had an oven fortuitously placed in it. From the evidence of plan and section drawing the latter interpretation is preferred. The pit itself is sub-oval with gently sloping sides and flat even base. The oven was probably keyhole or figure-of-eight-shaped in plan with the deeper bowl of the oven to north cutting the chalk natural slightly beyond the pit edge. On the base of the bowl was a circle of burnt chalk 0.45 m in diameter and around the north side a thick lining of daub was observed during excavation. The floor of the oven was rounded and dished in the bowl, but to the south formed a continuous even slope up to the surface forming flue and stokehole. In the flue/stokehole area fill was a large block of daub [2589] which lay across the southern end. It took the form of a moulded block with a flat surface, possibly a plank impression over part of the back/interior surface with a rounded roughly semicircular profile, narrowing to the ?top which ended in a rounded moulded end, where it measured 120 mm wide and 80 mm thick increasing to the ?base to 180 mm wide and 120 mm thick. The whole was gently curving and it was more reddened along this inner edge. The most likely interpretation is that it formed part of the stokehole arch.

Fill: Over the base of the oven was a collapsed layer (2) of large flint nodules 80–170 mm most towards the base of the layer set in a mass of yellowish-brown (fabric C) and reddish-yellow (fabric E) daub. Most of the daub was amorphous and degraded, but a small sample

[2654] was retained. These had the appearance of oven base, retaining little evidence of surfaces, but a few examples of stems and split wattles were observed. This layer appears to be collapsed superstructure. Above this the top of the feature appeared to be capped by a layer of clean angular chalk rubble up to 30 mm compacted in fine chalk powder and yellowish-grey silt (1). It thinned northwards and may have been partially removed by the machine in removing ploughsoil.

Ph 998 G210019 and **Ph 1000** G213012 Phase: LIA ?Oven: Type 2c Tr 4
Length: 1.4 m Diameters: 0.65 Depth: 0.13, 0.08 m
These two post-holes have been included here on account of their fills. When first exposed their burnt fill gave the distinct impression of being an oven and it is possible that only subsequent cleaning pared down the two ends of a figure-of-eight-shaped oven into two separate hollows. Both hollows are very similar in size and take the form of rounded bowl-shaped hollows with gently sloping sides and dished bases. The south side of ph 998 sloped up more gently towards ph 1000, which was slightly higher and shallower. If these features do represent an oven, it would be aligned NNW–SSE with the more northerly representing the oven bowl and the southern one the stokehole. Alternatively they could be two hearths set side by side.

Fills: Both fills were almost identical: very silty brown soil containing chalk grit, small fragments of daub *c*.10 mm and burnt flints 50–70 mm most common in the northern post-hole; smears of charcoal were also noted. A clay bead [2580] was found in the southern hollow.

Hearths

F520 L356834 Unphased Area of burning – Hearth: Type 3
Diameter: 0.86 m Isolated
This feature survived only as a patch of natural chalk burnt blue-grey. A thin skim of fine charcoal had possibly originally covered it, but was removed by machining, cleaning and subsequent weathering. (The burnt chalk itself had all but disappeared by the end of the excavation 6–7 weeks after it had originally been exposed.)

F542 L338712 Roman Hearth: Type 3; 1. – Villa Room 1
Diameter: 0.75 m (hollow), 0.76 x 0.82 m (surface) Depth: 0.12 m
?Contemporary with L339. Situated in NW corner of Room 1.
The initial phase of this feature took the form of a basin-shaped hollow with sides gently sloping to a dished base. No burning was observed on the surface of the natural in the hollow.

Fill: In the base of the hollow was a dark yellowish-brown clayey soil (3) with much chalk grit, smears of charcoal and occasional burnt flints. Covering this was a thin (10–20 mm) but continuous lens of solid charcoal fragments and powder (2). The top of the hollow above this had been filled with a mottled dark grey/yellowish-brown clayey soil mixed with degraded daub fragments with flecks, smears and fragments of charcoal and small fragments of burnt chalk and flint (1). Set in this were large blocks of daub up to 150 mm in size. There was a distinct ring of burning and ash around the north side on the surface. It is probable the daub had been laid as a surface for the hearth rather than interpreting it as collapsed superstructure of an oven.

F570 L317658 cp EEIA–EIA; phase – Roman Hearth: Type 3 – Villa Room 1
Length: 1.7 m Diameters: 1.0 m (N), 0.8 m (S) Depth: 0.17 (N), 0.06 m (S)
This feature consists of two parts, both circular, forming an overall figure-of-eight shape. However one part formed a hollow and the other a flat surface. It is possible it represents a succession of hearths on roughly the same area.

The hollow on the north-west took the form of a rounded bowl shape with sloping sides continuous with the dished base. This was filled with a thick layer of dark greyish-yellow clayey soil (3) mixed with a high density of crushed charcoal and charcoal fragments, plus a scatter of small rounded chalk and broken flints, some burnt, all 10–40 mm. The layer is looser with a higher ash and charcoal content towards the edges of the hollow. To the SE the smaller circular area formed a very slight recessed flat hollow with the surface of the chalk burnt grey. Laid partly over both areas was another circular area 0.8 x 0.88 m diameter of crushed puddled chalk (2) 30–70 mm thick; where the surface was exposed it was trampled and burnt. Set partly in the puddled chalk layer and partly in clay over the circle of burnt natural was a layer (L317) of limestone flags (reused floor or roof tiles probably) up to 300 mm in size and 20–30 mm thick (1) and usually laid only one slab thick; a few tabular flints are interspersed with the tile. The surface of the tiles was heavily worn and they had all been burnt. The tile covers a roughly subrectangular area 1.0 x 0.6 m.

The preferred interpretation of this feature is that it represents a hearth, used, renewed and resurfaced at least four times with its position moving very slightly. It starts as a Type 3 hearth in its first and second stages worn into deep and shallow hollows, followed by a deliberate construction of chalk surface (Type 2) and finally of stone flags (Type 4).

F572 L318675 Roman – ?late Hearth: Type 3 – Villa Room 1
Diameter: 0.64 m Thickness: 50 mm
Abutted by L315. Above L339; ?overlapped F543.
The southern half was removed by the machine cut. This feature did not appear to be a deliberate construction, but the result of burning on the surface of a clayey soil, which had a few small burnt flints 10–40 mm embedded in the surface, which had been burnt and discoloured by ash and charcoal.

F586 L350669 Roman Post pad/Hearth: Type 3; 1 – Villa Room 1
Diameter: 1.0 m Depth: 0.16 m
In the initial phase this feature took the form of a circular bowl-shaped hollow with gently sloping sides forming a continuous curving surface with the base. There was no sign of burning on the natural surface.

Fill: Across the base of the hollow was a lens of burnt clayey soil (3) containing a high density of charcoal and small burnt fragments of chalk and flint 10–30 mm. This probably represents the first phase of use of this feature as a hearth.

Over the charcoal layer the second phase of use was constructed: flat limestone slabs 150–300 mm in size were placed around the NE side of the hollow and then broken flint nodules up to 250 mm in size were closely set in the hollow one course thick in a bed of clayey yellow soil (2). Over the flints had been spread a surface of mortar mixed with dark yellowish-brown clayey soil (1) containing small weathered chalk fragments. Pieces of painted wall plaster mixed in with this layer suggest the mortar had been reused from elsewhere. Although there appeared to be no burning on the surface the construction of a flint

foundation levelled with finer material, in this case mortar, is comparable with Iron Age hearths at Danebury where the norm was a foundation of flints surfaced with daub or puddled chalk. Lack of burning on the surface would imply the hearth was not subsequently used or only very briefly.

F588 L347688 Unphased Area of burning/Hearth: Type 3 – Villa Room 1
Diameter: 1.4 x 1.3 m Below L299
This feature is subcircular (almost heart-shaped) in plan and is merely defined by burning on the surface of the chalk natural. A central area measuring 0.8 x 0.55 m was most worn and burnt greyest. Beyond this burning on the chalk was scarcely visible but the natural clay pockets had been turned red by the heat. This area of burning probably marks the position of a simple hearth rather than a more elaborate structure of which nothing further survived. The hearth was in use for a sufficient time to discolour the natural, but not over such a long period that there was time for a hollow to wear.

F612 L084441 Unphased Patch of burning ?hearth: Type 3
Diameter: 0.6 x 0.55 m Depth: 0.03 m
This feature took the form of a flat area of soil burnt *in situ* covered by a thin lens of grey ash and fine flecks of charcoal. It appears to represent the position of a small hearth, without formal structure and probably used only for a short period of time as no hollowing from wear and cleaning has occurred.

2.9 **The well**

F554 L274543 Phase: Late Roman
Length/Width: 1.4 m Depth: >1.3 m
This square-cut feature with straight vertical sides is presumed to be the top of a well. Very little of the fill was actually excavated: only a 0.30 m wide slice down its west side to a limited depth. The upper metre had been cut through the fill of quarries F580/F576 and excavation only continued for another 0.35 m, where it cut solid chalk.

Fill: The lowest layer, partially exposed on the north side and sloping down to the south, was a tip of freshly quarried angular chalk rubble, 60–120 mm in size, loosely packed with many voids and interstices sometimes infilled with small chalk 10–30 mm and fine shattered slivers (7). Sloping down over this and levelling out on the south was a compact and homogeneous tip of brown silty soil (6) with chalk grit and a low density of subrounded chalk and broken flints, both 10–40 mm. This was followed by a further tip of loose angular chalk 30–80 mm plus occasional broken flints *c*.50 mm loose and incoherent with a little chalk grit and angular slivers *c*.10 mm between rubble (5). On the surface of the layer in section was a large horse/cattle long bone that could be part of a special deposit such as an articulated leg. Infilling the hollow on the south side of the feature was a mixed layer of greyish-brown silty soil with chalk grit and small subangular fragments 10–30 mm, rare daub, charcoal and flints interleaved with chalkier lenses of larger looser chalk 30–60 mm sometimes with puddled chalk matrix (4). Covering this was a fairly horizontal layer of granular brownish-grey silty soil, compact and coherent containing a low density of small flints, rounded chalk and grit (3). In a central hollow in the top of this was a deposit of amorphous pale yellowish-brown daub with few distinct blocks (2). The top of the feature was sealed by brown silty soil (1) containing a moderate density of small chalk up to 20 mm, scattered blocks 80–120 mm and broken angular flints, some burnt 20–50 mm.